ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESULTS OF ELECTIONS TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE AND THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE.

President : Before we proceed to the next business on the Agenda, I have to announce to the House the result of the elections held last evening under the Chairmanship of one of the Panel of Chairmen to elect a representative of this House both to the Public Accounts Committee and the Standing Finance Committee. In regard to the Public Accounts Committee, only two names were balloted and Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai heads the list. In regard to the Finance Committee, three names were balloted and Mr V. S. Arumukham Pillai tops the list. Therefore, I declare that Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai and Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai are elected to the Public Accounts Committee and the Standing Finance Committee respectively.

VOTING OF THE DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.—(*contd.*)

Demand XII—REGISTRATION—(*contd.*)

Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai : Sir, during the course of the discussion yesterday, the main point raised by the honourable members was about the irregularity in appointing a technical man as the head of the Registration Department. That question was justified by even some of the honourable non-official members on the other side. Government knew that administrative experience can be gained by controlling any of the departments of Government, as any technical officer who was in charge of a department is expected to manage and control even a non-technical department—

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : Is it not a delicate matter for the honourable member to justify his own appointment ?

Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai : I am thankful to the member, for the remark. Sir, in fact this was the only main subject on which discussion took place yesterday and hence I thought I must cover and answer that point also though delicate.

President : Some other member of Government may perhaps take up cudgels on your behalf.

Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai : Then, Sir, regarding the observations made by some honourable members about the working of my department, I have only a few remarks to offer.

The next subject was a complaint by the honourable member Mr. John Kattakayam stating that the officers, especially the Registration Director while going to an office for inspection sit in a Travellers' Bungalow or a Satrom and enjoy the hospitality of his subordinates. Mr. John Kattakayam stated on the floor of this House, that he could prove such allegations. In this case, Sir, I am sure, my friend Mr. John Kattakayam will not be able to

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[Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai.]

prove this allegation against the present Director. He says, that if the Director were to go and inspect the cash without giving notice, he thinks that I will be able to find out that the registering officers receive bribes and so on. In fact, Sir, the report of the inspection of every office is submitted to Government and I am expected to check cash as well and that is really the first item in the inspection report, "the collection". I have to check, thus, all the collections of a particular date and also the permanent advance. This is generally done only by the Director and not by the clerk who accompanies him. I have not noticed many cases of such difference in the collection. Very recently, during one of my inspections, I came across a small difference ; that is, I found a difference of 3 Chackrams. The three Chackrams were taken from the permanent advance to the day's collection and even for this slight irregularity I warned the Sub-Registrar concerned, though there was not any misappropriation as the total amount was correct. If any cases of corruption is reported, I will be only too glad to enquire into the case and if they are proved to be true, either punish them or recommend for their punishments.

Another question raised by the honourable member, Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar, was regarding the issue of certificates. He was complaining that we give an irresponsible certificate. It is not at all correct. The reason is that the parties are allowed the use of all documents and records even though they pay the prescribed fees. They are allowed to go through the records and the officers concerned certify that the party has searched the documents.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know whether the parties are not asked to pay money?

Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai: Yes, Sir, they are asked to pay money. They have the freedom to search all the records in the presence of the clerk.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: Is not the amount paid as a security?

Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai: Not at all.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know from the member whether the party is bound to make a search in person?

Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai: They are not bound to make the search in person, but the clerks in the absence of the party may not be responsible for the accuracy of the search they make by themselves and it is for the party to see that he gets a correct certificate.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know, Sir, whether the clerks are made responsible for the certificate so far as the loans to be given in the Land Mortgage Bank are concerned?

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Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai: Yes, Sir.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: May I know from the member what is the rule which exempts the department from the accuracy of the document?

Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai: If the honourable members have any difficulty in this matter, they can bring forward proposals that the certificate should be modified and if Government find that there is any necessity of a change in the form of the certificate, they will be considered.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: In all copies the department ensures the accuracy of the certificates issued. In this department they issue certificates and they say "we are not responsible for the inaccuracies, and omissions." This is something very peculiar. They rely on old forms belonging to the year 1079. They preserve the old form and even now nobody gets any sort of accuracy in the records supplied to them. So, many are put to difficulty; innocent persons have to go through many encumbrances, so much so, that they are put to very serious inconveniences and loss.

Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai: Under "*Searches and grant of encumbrance certificates*, (Section 133) it is said, "when an application for a search is presented and the requisite fees have been paid, the Registering Officer shall enquire whether applicant will himself make the search or desire that it should be made by the office establishment. When the applicant himself makes the search he shall note the result on the application and sign the same. *Issue of certificates to private parties.* (*a*) When the search is made by themselves: In this case (Note 3 B) in the encumbrances certificate from, should be retained and (Note 3 A) struck out. (*b*) when the search is made by the office: (Note 3 A) will be retained and (Note 3 B) struck out. *Issue of certificates for Government purposes.* In this case (Note 3 B) and underlined portions in 3 A will be struck out.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know from the member whether any deduction would be made when the searches are made by the parties concerned?

Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai: The usual rate is levied.

Mr. E. P. Varghese: Should not the clerks also be present when the searches are made?

Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai: Yes, Sir.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: May I know, from the member whether the department will be responsible if an omission is found and whether the party can proceed against it?

Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai: If the party were to report that there is some ommission or irregularity due to the carelessness of the clerk the department will take responsibility for our enquiry and have the particular clerk punished.

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Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: In the case of the form in force may I know whether Government take the responsibility?

Mr. N. K Padmanabha Pillai: No, Sir. It is stated very clearly that the department will not be responsible for that.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: May I know, Sir, whether there is any other department which is not thus responsible for the contents of the certificates they give?

Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai: I am not aware of any other.

These are the only points raised by the honourable members, and I request Mr. John Kattakayam not to press the motion.

President: I put to the vote of the House Demand No XII - Registration for Rs. 3,17,960.

The motion was carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND No. XIII—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—EXCLUDING FINANCIAL SECRETARIAT, ACCOUNT OFFICE AND LEGISLATIVE BODIES.

Rao Bahadur Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 2,76,866 under Demand XIII—General Administration—excluding Financial Secretariat, Account Office and Legislative Bodies.

Mr. J. John Kattakayam: സർ, വിദ്യാലയങ്ങളിൽ പ്രാർത്ഥന പാടില്ലെന്നും മറും വിവരിച്ചു സമീപകാലത്തുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു ആർഡറിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഞാൻ ഒരു അടിയന്തിരപ്രമേയം ഈ സഭയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരികയും അതിനെ പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നതിനു ആരും ഇല്ലാതെ തള്ളിക്കളയുകയുമാണു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ആ അടിയന്തിരപ്രമേയത്തെ ചീഫ്സെക്രട്ടറി എതിർത്തു. എഡ്യൂക്കേഷൻഡയറക്ടർ പറഞ്ഞതു്: ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു ആർഡർ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല എന്നാണു്; അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ അജ്ഞതകൊണ്ടായിരിക്കാം അങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞതു്. ഫൗണ്ടേഷൻ ഏപ്രിൽ ൨൯-൦൯-൩൬ ന൪൯൯-൦൦നമ്പർ ആർഡർ ആണു് ഇതിനു കാരണം. അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഇവിടത്തെ പ്രധാനപത്രങ്ങളിലെല്ലാം വിമർശനം ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. എന്നിട്ടും ഡയറക്ടർ അറിയാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള കാരണം എന്തെന്നു സംശയിക്കേണ്ടതായിത്തന്നെ വരുന്നു. അനദ്ധ്യായദിവസങ്ങളിലും അനദ്ധ്യായസമയത്തും വിദ്യാലയങ്ങളിൽ വച്ചു പ്രാർത്ഥന നടത്താൻ പാടില്ല എന്നു പറയുന്നതു വളരെ ശോചനീയമായ ഒന്നാണു്. വിദ്യാലയങ്ങളിൽ അദ്ധ്യായസമയത്തു മതപരമായ പ്രാർത്ഥനകൾ നടത്താൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു ഞാൻതന്നെ പലപ്പോഴും പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

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